

CIA Can't Match Soviet Spy

By Harry Ferguson
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In size and resources the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) is a David fighting a Russian Goliath. The Soviet Union has the world's largest espionage force, and persons who know say the Russians spend at least \$2 billion a year in their cloak-and-dagger war against the West.

How much the CIA spends is a secret to everybody except a band of about a dozen men in Washington. You can search the Federal budget from cover to cover and never find an item allotting money to the CIA. People qualified to make an educated guess think the annual expenditure is around \$400 million, although they concede it could well be twice that much. The size of the staff is secret, too, but some estimate it at about 40,000, perhaps too high a figure.

Each year the CIA Director, now John A. McCone, appears before small panels made up of senior members of the Senate and House Appropriations Committees. He tells them how much money he needs but doesn't have to explain what he intends to do with it.

After the Congressmen approve the round sum, it then is split into many small items that are salted and hidden throughout the Federal budget. An item for 500 trucks for the Agriculture Department very well could be an appropriation for the CIA, which doesn't buy trucks.

President Could Insist

Once the CIA has its money, nobody asks how it is being spent, although the President conceivably could insist on knowing.

But, no matter how much money it spends or how many agents it deploys, the CIA is still going to be out-manned and out-spent by the Russians. At the height of the Stalin terror one Russian out of every five was said to be connected in some fashion with espionage, although millions were only on a part-time basis and chiefly engaged in spying on one another. Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev has changed things a bit, but the

Soviet Union still musters a formidable army of spies and counterspies.

Allen W. Dulles, who recently retired as CIA director, describes it this way: "Today the Soviet state security service (KGB) is the eyes and ears of the Soviet state abroad as well as at home. It is a multipurpose, clandestine arm of power that can in the last analysis carry out almost any act that the Soviet leadership assigns to it."

Dulles says every Russian organization outside the Soviet Union is loaded with KGB agents—embassies, legations, trade missions, technical advisers and even the United Nations delegation. In some embassies, he adds, the KGB agent may be a chauffeur, but he gives orders to the Ambassador.

The CIA cannot do business in such a high-handed and free-wheeling fashion because it ultimately is responsible to a democratic government operating in a free society. But it does have one powerful advantage over the KGB. Either through fear or disgust, Russians have been defecting to the West in increasing numbers.

They have included a substantial number of Russians inside the Soviet espionage network, and these are the prize catches of all for the CIA.

Defection is a two-way street, of course, and the West has suffered some damaging ones. But on the balanced Dulles believes the West has a clear advantage over the Russians in terms of information supplied by defectors. He indicates there are many Russians who have defected and not yet "surfaced," meaning that the CIA chooses for reasons of its own to keep their stories secret.

Congressmen frequently complain—as they have recently—that the CIA is too secret.

Thus there were quiet smiles on Capitol Hill when Lytton H. Gibson, a lawyer representing some construction firms, told a Senate subcommittee hearing in Fairfax County, Va. that the CIA was building its new headquarters at Langley, Va., and Gibson's clients

apartment project nearby. They wanted to know how many persons would be employed at CIA headquarters.

"I called several Congressmen and Senators," Gibson said, "and was told they couldn't get the information. On the spur of the moment I phoned the Russian Embassy. The second person I talked to told me his information was that CIA had about 3500 people at Langley and eventually would have 11,000."

What the critics of CIA fail to consider is that if it didn't operate in secrecy it would be out of business within a month. You cannot conduct espionage in the open-handed way that the Agriculture Department collects figures and issues crop reports. But the fact seems to be that congressional irritation over the CIA reflects a distaste on the part of Americans for spying.

This distaste prevailed until the Sunday morning when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. Informed persons are substantially in agreement that there was plenty of little pieces of information around Washington to warn of the attack. But no organization nor person was charged with the duty of fitting the pieces together and making a picture of what was about to happen.

Other Agencies

That is now the function of the CIA. It is not the only intelligence agency in Washington. The Army, Navy and Air Force have intelligence agencies and recently an over-all group has been set up by the Defense Department. The Federal Bureau of Investigation is charged with the duty of fighting Communist subversion and sabotage inside the United States. The State Department and the Atomic Energy Commission have intelligence units.

Representatives of all these organizations meet once a week or more often if developments indicate the necessity. They must be ready on short notice to come up with facts that will help the National Security Council and the President formulate policy.

Expense

It is the responsibility of the Director of the CIA to assemble and evaluate the information collected by all these intelligence groups. He also must prepare a daily intelligence bulletin that is placed on the desk of the President every morning and contains the latest information from all parts of the world.

The CIA keeps "watch officers" on duty around the clock under orders to call the Director if something significant comes in. The Director decides which Government officials must be notified immediately. Nobody can get the President of the United States on the phone so fast as the Director of the CIA.

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